IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): ~~A facsimile machine, characterized by~~ An image communication apparatus comprising:

~~reading means for reading an original~~;

first communication means for ~~transmitting/~~receiving first image data;

first accumulating means for accumulating ~~a received image data~~ in a memory the first image data received by said first communication means;

recording means for recording on a recording sheet the first image data ~~following reading out the same from~~ accumulated by said first accumulating means in the memory;

reading means for reading an original sheet and obtaining second image data;

second communication means for transmitting the second image data obtained by said reading means;

transmitting instruction means for instructing ~~the transmitting~~ reading of the original sheet and transmission of the ~~original~~ the second image data by said second communication means;

a medium conveying mechanism ~~being a conveying mechanism common for~~ used in reading the original sheet by said reading means and obtaining the second image data and in recording the first image on a recording sheet by said recording means; and

control means for controlling said image communication apparatus in such a way that in a case where said transmitting instruction means instructs the reading of the original sheet and transmitting of the second image while said first communication means receives the first image data and said first accumulating means accumulates the first image data,

said reading means reads the original sheet and obtains the second image data while said first communication means receives the first image data, ~~said reading means performs a reading operation of the original to be transmitted based on the instruction of said transmitting instruction means precedently than performance of a~~ and before said recording means records the first image data on the recording ~~operation~~ sheet,

said recording means records the first image data on the recording sheet while said second communication means transmits the second image data, and

said conveying mechanism automatically switches from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after said reading means completes the reading of the original sheet and said first communication means completes the reception of the first image data ~~of the received image data by said recording means in case said transmitting instruction means issues an instruction for transmitting the original when said communication means receives the image data and the first accumulating means performs a memory accumulating operation of the received image data~~.

Claim 2. (currently amended): The ~~facsimile machine~~ image communication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising second accumulating means for accumulating the image read by said reading means in the memory, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means controls in such a way that said second accumulating means performs a memory

accumulating operation of the ~~read~~ second image ~~precedently than performance of a recording operation of the received image data by~~ data before said recording means performs recording of the first image data in a case in which said transmitting instruction means issues an instruction for transmitting the ~~original~~ second image data when said first communication means receives the first image data and the first accumulating means performs the memory accumulating ~~operation~~ of the ~~received~~ first image data.

Claim 3. (currently amended): The ~~facsimile machine~~ image communication apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising moving means for moving said reading means to a ~~readable~~ reading position when said reading means reads the original sheet, and for moving said reading means to a retracted position when the reading ~~operation~~ of the original sheet is ~~to be~~ completed.

Claim 4. (currently amended): The ~~facsimile machine~~ image communication apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means controls in such a way that the memory accumulating operation of the ~~received~~ first image data by ~~the~~ said first accumulating means and the reading ~~operation~~ of the original sheet and obtaining of the second image data to be transmitted ~~by said reading means~~ are performed in parallel.

Claim 5. (currently amended): The ~~facsimile machine~~ image communication apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means controls in such a way that the memory accumulating operation of the ~~received~~ first image data by said first

accumulating means and the memory accumulating operation of the ~~read~~ second image data by ~~the~~ said second accumulating means are performed in parallel.

Claim 6. (currently amended): The ~~facsimile machine~~ image communication apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, after ~~the~~ completion of the memory accumulating operation of the ~~received~~ first image data by ~~the~~ said first accumulating means, the transmitting ~~operation~~ of the second image data ~~read by said reading operation~~ by said second communication means is started, and after ~~the~~ completion of the reading ~~operation~~ of the original sheet and obtaining of the second image data ~~to be transmitted~~ by said reading means, said recording means operates to record the ~~received~~ first image data, and ~~in that~~ said control means ~~is means for controlling~~ controls in such a way that ~~said~~ the transmitting ~~operation~~ of the second image data and ~~said~~ the recording ~~operation~~ of the first image data are performed in parallel.

Claim 7. (currently amended): The ~~facsimile machine~~ image communication apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, when said transmitting instruction means issues an instruction for transmitting the ~~original~~ second image data while a plurality of pages are being recorded, ~~the~~ recording of the plurality of pages is temporarily interrupted ~~in the midst of the page(s) subjected to~~ before completion of recording ~~by said recording means~~, and after the completion of the reading of the original sheet ~~to be transmitted~~ by said reading means instructed by said transmitting instruction means and ~~the~~ accumulation thereof into said memory by said second accumulating means, recording of the plurality of pages is resumed ~~remaining image data is recorded~~.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A control method of an image communication apparatus ~~facsimile machine~~ provided with a medium conveying mechanism ~~being~~ that serves as a conveying mechanism common for an original sheet and a recording sheet, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

~~a reading step for reading an original by reading means;~~

a first communication step for ~~transmitting/~~receiving [[an]] first image data;

a first accumulating step for accumulating ~~a received~~ the first image data in a memory;

a recording step for reading the first image data accumulated in the memory and recording the ~~same~~ first image data by recording means;

a reading step for reading an original sheet and obtaining second image data;

a second communication step for transmitting the second image data obtained in said reading step;

a transmitting instruction step for instructing ~~the~~ reading of the original sheet and transmitting of the second image data ~~original~~; and

a controlling step for controlling in such a way that in a case where performance of said transmitting instruction step instructs the reading of the original sheet and transmitting of the second image while the first image data is received in said first communication step and accumulated in said first accumulating step,

said reading step is performed to read the original sheet and obtain the second image data while the first image data is received in said first communication step, and before the first image data is recorded on the recording sheet in said recording step,

said recording step is performed to record the first image data on the recording sheet while the second image data is transmitted in said second communication step, and

the conveying mechanism automatically switches from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after completion of the reading of the original sheet and in said reading step and completion of the reception of the first image data in said first communication step ~~the reading of the original to be transmitted by said reading step based on the instruction by said transmitting instruction step takes precedence over the recording of the received image data performed by said recording step in case the transmitting of the original is instructed by said transmitting instruction step when the image data is received at said communication step and the memory accumulating operation of the received image data by the first accumulating step is performed~~.

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium storing a program and readable by a computer in an image communication apparatus ~~facsimile machine~~ provided with a medium conveying mechanism being a conveying mechanism common for an original and a recording sheet, allowing a computer to execute:

~~a reading procedure for reading an original by reading means;~~

a first communication procedure for ~~transmitting/~~receiving [[an]] first image data;

a first accumulating procedure for accumulating ~~a received~~ the first image data in a memory;

a recording procedure for reading the first image data accumulated in the memory and recording the ~~same~~ first image data by recording means;

a reading procedure for reading an original sheet and obtaining second image data;

a second communication procedure for transmitting the second image data obtained in said reading procedure;

a transmitting instruction procedure for instructing ~~the~~ reading of the original sheet and transmitting of the second image data ~~original~~; and

a controlling procedure for controlling in such a way that in a case where performance of said transmitting instruction procedure instructs the reading of the original sheet and transmitting of the second image while the first image data is received in said first communication procedure and accumulated in said first accumulating procedure,

said reading procedure is performed to read the original sheet and obtain the second image data while the first image data is received in said first communication procedure, and before the first image data is recorded on the recording sheet in said recording procedure,

said recording procedure is performed to record the first image data on the recording sheet while the second image data is transmitted in said second communication procedure, and

the conveying mechanism automatically switches from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after completion of the reading of the original sheet and in said reading procedure and completion of the reception of the first image data in said first communication procedure ~~the reading of the original to be transmitted by said reading step based on the instruction by said transmitting instruction step takes precedence over the recording of the~~

~~received image data performed by said recording step in case the transmitting of the original is instructed by said transmitting instruction step when the image data is received at said communication step and the memory accumulating operation of the received image data by the first accumulating step is performed~~.